

## Issues and Actions for the 2007 VIUS

### Working Groups

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Issues	Actions	As of:
<p>A proposal to improve coverage of newer model years has been drafted.</p> <p>The sample should concentrate on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 year old and newer heavy</li> <li>- 6 year old and newer medium and mid-range</li> <li>- 4 year old and newer light</li> </ul> <p>This group captures the highest vehicle use and is typically first owner under warranty.</p> <p>Next priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5 to 9 year old heavy</li> <li>- 7 to 10 year old medium and mid-range</li> <li>- 5 to 8 year old light</li> </ul> <p>This group captures second and third owner and is the bulk of aftermarket and service dollars.</p> <p>Last priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10 year and older heavy</li> <li>- 11 year and older medium and mid-range</li> <li>- 9 year and older light</li> </ul> <p>This group is least important as far as use but important to understand population changes.</p>	<p>Comments on proposal due by February 3, 2006.</p>	<p>January 19, 2006</p>
<p>A list of makes inappropriate for certain strata is being reviewed. This list will be used when accepting or rejecting sample files from our contractor.</p>	<p>Under discussion by the <b>Sample Design</b> working group.</p>	<p>January 19, 2006</p>

Issues	Actions	As of:
<p>The Census Bureau proposes deleting the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- From the leasing section (TC-9502) delete “How did you lease this vehicle? (vehicle only or vehicle with driver)”</li> <li>- From the leasing section (TC-9502) delete “Was the leasing agreement for 12 months or more? (yes or no)”</li> <li>- From the leasing section (TC-9502) delete “Which of the following did the leasing agreement include? (financing only, full maintenance, payment of taxes, obtaining licenses and permits, recordkeeping, or fuel contract)”</li> <li>- From the physical characteristics section (TC-9502) delete “...how many of the liftable axles are located in the following locations? (axles forward of the drive axle, axles behind the drive axle – below the chassis, or axles behind the drive axle – extending beyond the chassis)”</li> <li>- From the physical characteristics section (TC-9502) delete “...how many liftable axles are braking axles? (none, one axle, two axles, three axles or more)”</li> </ul> <p><i>Three data users voiced concern over deleting the leasing questions.</i></p> <p><i>No feedback received by deadline stating objections to the deletion of the liftable axle location question or the braking liftable axle question.</i></p>	<p>IMPLEMENT – will delete the location of liftable axle question and the braking liftable axle question.</p> <p>DO <u>NOT</u> IMPLEMENT – will not delete any of the leasing questions.</p>	<p>January 19, 2006</p>
<p>The heading for the questionnaire section labeled <b>TYPE OF VEHICLE</b> should be deleted and questions listed under the <b>PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS</b> heading.</p>	<p>IMPLEMENT</p>	<p>September 28, 2005</p>
<p>Delete “Curtainside” from the response options for a straight truck body. Any write-ins for “curtainside” should be coded to the “Flatbed” response option.</p>	<p>IMPLEMENT</p>	<p>September 28, 2005</p>
<p>Delete “Low boy” from the response options for a straight truck body.</p>	<p>IMPLEMENT</p>	<p>October 31, 2005</p>

Issues	Actions	As of:
Delete “Crane” from the response options for a straight truck body. Any respondent with crane body will be expected to report under the newly reworded “Service, other (body composed of external compartments such as mobile workshop, crane body, etc.)” response option.	A <b>Body Type</b> working group decision. <b>Any comments are due by February 3, 2006.</b>	January 19, 2006
Delete “Van, open top (including low-side grain, fruit, potato bed, etc.)” from the response options for a straight truck body.  Add “Grain body” and “Conveyor bed (typically for potatoes, onions, beets, etc.)” response options.	A <b>Body Type</b> working group decision. <b>Any comments are due by February 3, 2006.</b>	January 19, 2006
Add “Roll-on/Roll-off” response option for a straight truck body.	A <b>Body Type</b> working group decision. <b>Any comments are due by February 3, 2006.</b>	January 19, 2006
Wording for the following response options for a straight truck body have been modified:  “Logging” – was “Pole, logging, pulpwood, or pipe”  “Flatbed (including added equipment), platform, curtain, pole, etc.” – was “Flatbed (including any with added devices), stake, platform, etc.”	A <b>Body Type</b> working group decision. <b>Any comments are due by February 3, 2006.</b>	January 19, 2006
The “Dump (including belly or bottom dump)” response option has been changed for a straight truck body to:  “Dump truck (hoist, belly, bottom dump)”  And for a trailer body to:  “Dump (hoist, belly, bottom dump)”	A <b>Body Type</b> working group decision. <b>Any comments are due by February 3, 2006.</b>	January 19, 2006
The “Van, step, walk-in, or multistop (including hi-cube or cutaway)” response option for a straight truck body has been split into the following categories:  “Van, cutaway (body separate from cab – direct access between them)”  “Van, walk-in (no cab – one unit body)”	A <b>Body Type</b> working group decision. <b>Any comments are due by February 3, 2006.</b>	January 19, 2006

Issues	Actions	As of:
<p>The “Van, basic enclosed (dry cargo)” response option has been changed for a straight truck body to:</p> <p>“Van, conventional (body separate from cab – no direct access between them)”</p> <p>And for a trailer body to:</p> <p>“Van, conventional”</p>	<p>A <b>Body Type</b> working group decision. <b>Any comments are due by February 3, 2006.</b></p>	<p>January 19, 2006</p>
<p>Drop the total axle question from the TC-9501 form and pull this data from the administrative records (decoded VIN). Add a question that asks for the total number of tires on the power unit.</p>	<p>IMPLEMENT</p>	<p>September 28, 2005</p>
<p>Collapse the two-axle response options under the total number of axles question on the TC-9502 form. Add a question that asks the total number of tires on the power unit (adding this question is possible if next issue is implemented).</p>	<p>IMPLEMENT</p>	<p>October 31, 2005</p>
<p>Drop the driving axle question from both forms and pull this data from the administrative records (decoded VIN).</p>	<p>IMPLEMENT</p>	<p>October 31, 2005</p>
<p>Census had an editing policy for 2002 that did not allow any single-unit vehicles to indicate a sleeper cab. Data users indicated that vans often have sleepers. Census will modify the editing policy to allow single-unit vans but will still reject any other single-unit vehicles that indicate a sleeper cab.</p>	<p>IMPLEMENT</p>	<p>September 28, 2005</p>
<p>Collapse “Semi-automated manual” and “Automated manual” response options to “Automated/semi-automated manual” and add option for “CVT.”</p>	<p>DO <u>NOT</u> IMPLEMENT</p>	<p>September 28, 2005</p>
<p>Change Census editing policy to allow pickups with “aerial work platform/bucket.” Keep edit to blank out this response for minivans and SUVs.</p>	<p>IMPLEMENT</p>	<p>November 21, 2005</p>

Issues	Actions	As of:
<p>Drop “Vehicle control aids for handicapped drivers” and “Wheelchair lift” from the TC-9501 form. Both response options had low response rates (0.15% and 0.27%, respectively).</p> <p><i>Received only one comment – “I can see where some users would find this helpful. Is low response appropriate given number of retrofitted vehicles?”</i></p>	IMPLEMENT (drop from form)	November 21, 2005
<p>Decide whether equipment options from the TC-9502 form with low response rates should be deleted:</p> <p>Internet access – 0.35%            Navigational system – 0.55%            Collision warning system – 1.02%            Aerial work platform/bucket – 1.32%            Mounting bar for snowplow – 1.35%</p> <p><i>Received only one comment – “There may be confusion here as to how to identify GPS, and yet that would be valuable information for several applications. Should we provide that as an option in lieu of these others?”</i></p>	<p>IMPLEMENT – will drop Internet access, Navigational system, and Collision warning system.</p> <p>DO <u>NOT</u> IMPLEMENT – will not drop Aerial work platform/bucket and Mounting bar for snowplow.</p>	November 21, 2005
<p>Delete “Radial tires” from both forms and add “Hitch” to the TC-9501 form.</p> <p><i>No feedback received by deadline stating objections.</i></p>	IMPLEMENT	December 12, 2005
Collapse double and triple trailers pulled categories.	DO <u>NOT</u> IMPLEMENT	September 28, 2005
Eliminate the trailer axle questions.	DO <u>NOT</u> IMPLEMENT	September 28, 2005
Eliminate the trailer width questions.	DO <u>NOT</u> IMPLEMENT	September 28, 2005
Change the structure of the vehicle configuration questions. Possibly use columns for questions pertaining to each configuration instead of separate pages.	Under discussion by Census	September 28, 2005
Add “Intermodal chassis” as a response option to the type of trailer question.	IMPLEMENT	September 28, 2005

Issues	Actions	As of:
<p>Change the total length question on both forms to refer to the length of the power unit, not the overall length of the vehicle configuration. Collapse response options to:</p> <p>“Less than 16.0 feet”  “16.0 – 19.9 feet”  “20.0 – 27.9 feet”  “28.0 – 35.9 feet”  “36.0 – 44.9 feet”  “45.0 feet or more”</p> <p>This question will move from the <b>VEHICLE CONFIGURATION</b> section of the questionnaire to the <b>PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS</b> section.</p>	IMPLEMENT	September 28, 2005
Drop empty and average weight questions from the TC-9501 form and pull this data from the administrative records (decoded VIN).	IMPLEMENT	September 28, 2005
Due to vehicle ownership issues, split the “not in use” question into two separate questions with the first question referring to “when owned.” This first question should also change the period of inactivity from 90 days to 30 days. The second question asking for the reasons not in use should have a response option added for “driver not available.”	IMPLEMENT	September 28, 2005
<p>Is the “not in use” question needed on the TC-9501 form? If not, the question will be deleted.</p> <p>If it remains, should the option for “seasonal” be changed to “seasonal/recreational” to cover vehicles such as Jeeps? Would that change make sense on the TC-9502 form as well?</p> <p>If it remains, is there enough interest in adding options for “Lease mileage restrictions” or “Health/Illness” and would these make sense on the TC-9502 form as well?</p> <p><i>No concerns raised by deadline concerning the deletion of this question (from TC-9501 form).</i></p>	IMPLEMENT (question will be deleted from the TC-9501 form)	December 12, 2005

Issues	Actions	As of:
<p>Further break out response options for the number of months operated (Tom Hubbard).</p> <p>Response options will be changed to:  “12 months”  “11 months”  “9-10 months”  “7-8 months”  “2-6 months”  “1 month or less”  “Vehicle not used (no miles driven)”</p>	<p>Comments on proposal due by February 3, 2006.</p>	<p>January 19, 2006</p>
<p>The 2002 data appears to have flaws in the annual miles for certain truck-tractors (Martin Labbe).</p>	<p>Still under discussion with Martin, but preliminary research performed by Tom Hubbard highlights interesting changes, but no major issues.</p>	<p>October 31, 2005</p>
<p>The instructions for calculating miles-per-gallon for alternative fuels could be improved (Mary Joyce).</p>	<p>To be discussed</p>	<p>September 28, 2005</p>
<p>Modify the jurisdiction question to identify the highest three states traveled in outside the home base, and the percent of mileage for each.</p>	<p>DO <u>NOT</u> IMPLEMENT</p>	<p>September 28, 2005</p>
<p>Eliminate the words “public/private” from the type of trips question.</p>	<p>IMPLEMENT</p>	<p>September 28, 2005</p>
<p>For the type of trips question, a request has been made to change “Trips-off-the-road” to “Trips-off-the road, including recreational” or “Trips-off-the-road (including recreational, logging, and farm).”</p> <p><i>No concerns raised by deadline. One comment received indicating preference for second rewording option.</i></p>	<p>IMPLEMENT – will change to “Trips-off-the-road (including recreational, logging, and farm)”</p>	<p>December 12, 2005</p>
<p>The kind of business question currently reads, “Which of the following best describes your business (or part of your business) in which this vehicle or vehicle/trailer combination was most often used during 2007?”</p> <p>A proposal has been made to replace “your” with “the.” The reason is that “your” implies the owner of the vehicle is the owner of the business. Many people use their own vehicles, but do not own the business.</p> <p><i>No concerns raised by deadline.</i></p>	<p>IMPLEMENT</p>	<p>December 12, 2005</p>

Issues	Actions	As of:
Split the kind of business response option “Waste management, landscaping, or administrative/support services” into three separate options:  “Waste management” “Landscaping” “Administrative/support services”	IMPLEMENT	September 28, 2005
Add a kind of business response option for “For-hire moving of household and office furniture” and modify “For-hire transportation or warehousing” to indicate that it excludes moving of household and office furniture.	IMPLEMENT	September 28, 2005
Provide the Census Bureau with a write-up explaining why it is important to capture the “For-hire moving of household and office furniture.” The write-up will be used for historical documentation of the change to the kind of business question.  <i>Response from Tom Hubbard: This segment of the market has long been recognized as distinct, and has its own NAICS code (484210) within specialized freight shipping. Furthermore, it is the only segment of the industry that remains under significant economic regulation.</i>	Any additional data user input is encouraged by February 3, 2006.	January 19, 2006
Change the response option wording from “Personal Transportation” to “Personal use” under the operator classification question.	IMPLEMENT	September 28, 2005
Change “Motor carrier” and “Owner operator” response options under the operator classification question to “For-hire motor carrier” and “For-hire owner operator.”	IMPLEMENT	September 28, 2005
Rework the response options for the source of hauls question. Many write-ins occurred which seem to indicate respondent confusion.  The response options for this question will be reworded to the following:  “Directly from your customers” “Indirectly – through other firms (including brokers, agents, and carriers who do not own this truck)” “Indirectly – through centralized markets or exchanges” “Other”	A <b>Hauls</b> working group decision. Any comments are due by February 3, 2006.	January 19, 2006



<b>Issues</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>As of:</b>
The pick-up/delivery question will change the word "pickups" to "pick-ups."	IMPLEMENT	October 4, 2005
The product response option of "Mail and courier parcels" will be reworded to "Parcels, mail or courier."	IMPLEMENT	September 28, 2005
Shorten the second hazardous materials question to: "What approximate percent of 2007 mileage did this vehicle or vehicle/trailer combination transport hazardous materials?"	IMPLEMENT	September 28, 2005
Modify the wording for the third hazardous materials question to: "What percent of the mileage noted above (in question 2) were the following types of hazardous materials carried?"	IMPLEMENT	September 28, 2005
Modify the publication text to reference explicitly that state estimates may include trucks operated in other states.	IMPLEMENT	September 28, 2005
<p>Create a section in the publication that will indicate the number of trucks for the following categories:</p> <p>"Home base in state of registration"</p> <p>"Home base not in state of registration"</p> <p>"No home base"</p> <p>"Not reported"</p> <p>The microdata could also contain an easier way to generate these estimates.</p>	IMPLEMENT	September 28, 2005
Do not ask for the "County/Parish/Borough" in the home base section. This information is not needed by the Census Bureau to code a record in or out of a MSA.	IMPLEMENT	September 28, 2005
Modify the response option of "Terminal" under the type of home base question to "Terminal or motor pool."	IMPLEMENT	September 28, 2005

Issues	Actions	As of:
Make the fleet size question similar to 1997, but reference “home base” and delete “trailers.” The question will ask “How many trucks and truck-tractors (power units) do you or your company operate from the home base location?” and will have the following response options:  “1 – 10” “11 – 20” “21 – 50” “51 or more”	IMPLEMENT	October 31, 2005
Collect “armored,” “concrete pumper,” and “street sweeper” but collapse in any publications (including CD-ROM) with “other.” <b>A sub proposal has been added to collapse “concrete pumper” with “concrete mixer.”</b>	To be discussed by the <b>Dissemination Issues</b> working group	October 31, 2005
Drop “four axles” (total) from publications/CD-ROM – collapse to “four axles or more.”	To be discussed by the <b>Dissemination Issues</b> working group	September 28, 2005
Drop “Three axles or more” from the liftable axle question and change “Two axles” to “Two axles or more.”	To be discussed by the <b>Dissemination Issues</b> working group	September 28, 2005
Change how we publish liftable axle locations by eliminating the cross tab with total liftable axles and publishing just totals by location for all.	To be discussed by the <b>Dissemination Issues</b> working group	September 28, 2005
Drop “Three axles or more” from the braking liftable axle question and change “Two axles” to “Two axles or more.”	To be discussed by the <b>Dissemination Issues</b> working group	September 28, 2005
Change how we publish number of braking liftable axles by eliminating the cross tab with total liftable axles and publishing just totals for each response option.	To be discussed by the <b>Dissemination Issues</b> working group	September 28, 2005
Drop “cab forward of engine” and “cab beside engine” as separate lines in publications/CD-ROM – collapse to “other.”	To be discussed by the <b>Dissemination Issues</b> working group	September 28, 2005
Collapse several trailer type options in published tables/CD-ROM.	To be discussed by the <b>Dissemination Issues</b> working group	September 28, 2005
Collapse average weight categories “130,001 or more” with “100,001 to 130,000” to form “100,001 or more” in publications/CD-ROM.	To be discussed by the <b>Dissemination Issues</b> working group	September 28, 2005

<b>Issues</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>As of:</b>
Collapse fuel categories “Natural gas”, “Alcohol fuels”, “Electricity”, “Combinations”, and maybe “Propane” to form “Other” in publications/CD-ROM.	To be discussed by the <b>Dissemination Issues</b> working group	September 28, 2005
The implemented change that breaks the kind of business response option “waste management, landscaping, or administrative/support services” into three separate categories is to be collapsed back for publications/CD-ROM.	To be discussed by the <b>Dissemination Issues</b> working group	September 28, 2005
Add a question to collect percentage of miles with shipments from ports and rail yards. A question will need to be deleted to make room for any added questions.	Under discussion by the <b>Intermodal</b> working group	October 31, 2005
Bring back the 1997 TC-9502 question about containers (item 8) – “What approximate percent of 2007 mileage pulling trailers did this vehicle haul – a) Railroad, maritime, or domestic containers, b) piggyback trailers, c) Conventional trailers? A question will need to be deleted to make room for any added questions.	Under discussion by the <b>Intermodal</b> working group	October 31, 2005